(b) whether negotiations with the firms had started as early as in 1987;

(c) whether other competitive offers were rejected by the erstwhile Government and Durgapur Steel Plant management; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Survey for Imposition of tax on the rural rich

1057. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a survey to study whether tax could be imposed on the rural rich; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Income of all persons from sources other than agriculture is chargeable to tax under the provisions of the Income-tax Act. Survey of business and commercial premises is undertaken by the Income-tax Department in both urban and rural areas to locate persons, having taxable income but are not being assessed to tax.

News-item captioned 'Charges against Mamaji'

1058. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Charges against 'Mamaji' which appeared in the Indian Express of 29th March, 1990; if so, what are the specific charges against Mamaji and threat by Swamy to disclose the political connections;

(b) whether any efforts are being made to bring back the high flying Swamy from abroad to complete legal process under law; and

(c) what are the difficulties in taking legal action against him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

The specific charge under FERA is that during the year 1985 Shri Kailash Nath Aggarwal @ Mamaji in association with Shri Chandra Swami acquired Foreign exchange of U.S. $50 lakhs and instead of surrendering it to an authorised dealer in India, transferred the same to the account of a person resident outside India in contravention of the provisions of FERA, 1973.

(b) and (c) Shri Chandraswami is out of India as per the permission granted to him by Delhi High Court in a case under investigation by CBI. The Directorate of Enforcement has issued summons to Shri Chandra Swami in this case.

News-item Captioned 'Closing in'

1059. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the report in Sunday Magazine 18—24 March, 1990 captioned "Closing in" and state whether the contents have revealed that the Enforcement Directorate findings have any semblance of truth and if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?